

GRUPE  
Appl. No. 09/881,058  
June 23, 2005

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

Please substitute the attached four (4) sheets of replacement drawings for the drawings originally filed.

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 39-45 and 60-66 have been allowed, with claims 10, 14, 15, 33, 36-38, 54 and 57-59 objected to and claims 1-9, 11-13, 16-32, 46-53, 55 and 56 rejected in the outstanding Official Action. Claims 9, 10, 13, 14, 32, 33, 53 and 54 have been cancelled without prejudice and claims 1, 11, 24, 40 and 46 amended. Therefore, claims 1-8, 11, 12, 15-31, 34-52 and 55-66 are the only claims remaining in this application.

In section 1 on page 2 of the Official Action, the Examiner notes that informal drawings were originally submitted and formal drawings are now due. Applicant encloses herewith substitute formal drawings in accordance with this requirement. Entry and consideration of these formal drawings is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9, 11-13, 16-32, 34, 35, 46-53, 55 and 56 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as anticipated by Grayznov (U.S. Patent 6,748,534). Inasmuch as claims 10, 14, 15, 33, 36-38, 54 and 57-59 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter and the subject matter of these claims has been incorporated into the independent claims, the rejection of these claims (with the exception of claims 16-23) as being anticipated by Grayznov has been obviated.

Specifically, the subject matter of claim 10 indicated as containing allowable subject matter has been added to independent claim 1 (along with the subject matter of claim 9 from which claim 10 depended). The subject matter of claim 14 (and claim 13 from which it depended) has been included in now independent claim 11. The subject matter of claim 33 (and claim 32 from which it depended) has been added to independent claim 24. The subject matter of claim 54 (and claim 53 from which it depended) has been added to independent claim 46. These claim amendments render claims 1, 11, 24 and 46 in condition for allowance, along with

claims dependent therefrom. Thus, claims 2-8 and 15 dependent on claim 1, claim 12 dependent on claim 11, claims 25-31 and 34-38 ultimately dependent on claim 24, and claims 47-52 and 55-59 ultimately dependent on claim 46, are all similarly allowable.

The indication of allowance of claims 39-45 and 60-66 is also very much appreciated.

The above amendments leave only claims 16-23 as being rejected as being anticipated under 35 USC §102. However, it is suspected that the Examiner, in reviewing claims 16-23, may not have appreciated that these claims parallel claims 39-45. For example, comparing claims 16 and 39, claim 16 is directed to a computer program product and claim 39 is directed to a method of controlling a computer. Both claims 16 and 39 recite (1) task receiving logic or the method step of receiving “a task request from a master computer specifying a portion of a larger scan operation;”, (2) task performing logic and the method step of performing “said portion of a larger scan operation;” and (3) result reporting logic and the method step of reporting “a result of said portion of a larger scan operation to said master computer.” Inasmuch as claim 39 has been held allowable over the art cited, it is submitted that independent claim 16 is similarly patentable over that same art.

Applicant agrees with the Examiner’s position that “the prior art does not show the features of setting task priority, tasks being outstanding for a predetermined time, a local bus system on the master computer connecting other computers, delegating larger size portions to be scanned” as set forth on page 3, section 6 of the outstanding Official Action. Inasmuch as claims 39-45 are allowed, it is submitted that claims 16-23 should also have been allowed and reconsideration of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

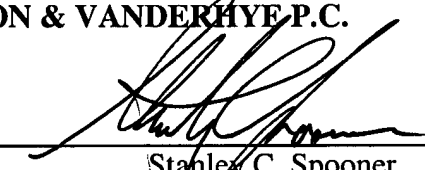
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Having responded to all objections and rejections set forth in the outstanding Official Action, it is submitted that remaining claims 1-8, 11, 12, 15-21, 34-52 and 55-66 are in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. In the event the Examiner is of the opinion that a brief telephone or personal interview will facilitate allowance of one or more of the above claims, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHIE P.C.**

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